



MI-CW4309

Michigan Crop Weather

October 26, 2009

Rain Returns

Three days were suitable for fieldwork during the week ending October 25, according to the USDA, NASS, Michigan Field Office. Precipitation varied from 0.93 inch in the central Lower Peninsula to 3.89 inches in the east central Lower Peninsula. Average temperatures ranged from 5 degrees below normal in the western Upper Peninsula to 2 degrees above normal in the south central and southeastern Lower Peninsula. More seasonal temperatures were experienced early in the week, as growers took advantage of the good weather to move harvest activities along. Growers worked to harvest a variety of crops and some progress was made on winter wheat planting. However, favorable conditions were short-lived when excessive rains returned and ended field activities for the week. Many growers continue to wait for warm, dry weather to further dry down corn before beginning harvest.

Field Crops

Rains this past week halted harvest of field crops, and slowed crop dry down. “Some good drying weather will be needed to get the entire crop under cover,” a reporter in the south central noted. Localized harvest did occur where conditions allowed. Moisture content of **corn** remains high as growers await drying weather. Progress of corn silage was behind schedule, but nearly complete. **Soybean** harvest continued where conditions allowed. **Wheat** planting continued as field conditions allowed, but growth of planted fields was slow. Some farmers decided not to plant wheat because of the delayed soybean harvest. **Sugarbeet** harvest and piling continued. Most farmers who were busy harvesting other crops have put off their sugarbeet harvest. **Dry bean** harvest was nearing completion across the State.

Soil moisture for week ending 10/25/09

Stratum	Very short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Topsoil	0	1	61	38
Subsoil	0	5	83	12

Crop condition for week ending 10/25/09

Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
All Hay	2	10	34	42	12
Corn	3	10	25	48	14
Dry beans	11	16	30	33	10
Pasture	3	17	40	30	10
Soybeans	3	9	31	45	12
Winter Wheat	4	5	24	45	22

Fruit

Apple harvest continued as weather permitted. In the southeast, growers were picking Crispin, Ida Red, and Fuji apple varieties. In the Grand Rapids area, the lack of processing markets had many growers considering not harvesting Ida Red and Rome varieties. **Grape** harvest was winding down. In the southwest, brix levels in Concord grapes continued to be below normal.

Vegetables

Harvest is complete for most vegetable crops across the State. In the southeast, a small amount of **cabbage** remains in a few locations, while in the Grand Rapids area, a few acres of **celery** for processing have not yet been harvested. In the southwest, most growers feel the growing season turned out to be average but only because of the decent weather that arrived in September. Across the State, growers have focused on removing plastic and stakes from their fields, performing tillage operations, and planting winter cover crops as weather conditions allow.

Crop progress for week ending 10/25/09

Crop	This week	Last week	Last year	5-year average
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
All hay, fourth cutting	61	54	61	69
Apples, harvested	72	61	89	89
Corn, mature	81	69	99	99
Corn, harvested	6	3	33	41
Corn silage, harvested	95	92	100	100
Dry beans, harvested	89	79	96	97
Potatoes, harvested	91	81	91	89
Soybeans, harvested	51	28	86	73
Sugarbeets, harvested	38	22	38	37
Winter wheat, planted	73	53	91	88
Winter wheat, emerged	34	23	56	59

Michigan Weather Summary for Week Ending 10/25/09 ¹

Station	Temperature			Cumulative growing degree days ²			Precipitation					
	Maximum	Minimum	Departure from normal	2009	2008	Normal	This week	Last two weeks	Last four weeks	Since April 1	Normal	
											Since April 1	For month
Ironwood	55	32		1,855	1,997		2.09	2.26	5.52	18.26		
Marquette	63	30		1,708	1,869		2.09	2.26	5.52	20.31		
Stephenson	66	30		2,112	2,337		2.23	2.43	6.75	21.07		
Western UP	67	22	-5	1,839	1,954	2,025	1.98	2.14	5.24	19.17	22.05	2.57
Cornell	59	34		1,942	2,195		2.07	2.29	4.96	17.98		
Sault St Marie	54	33		1,728	1,912		1.95	2.16	4.44	18.00		
Eastern UP	64	27	-3	1,718	1,915	1,777	2.14	2.35	5.77	20.63	21.10	2.57
Beulah	59	32		2,157	2,541		1.39	1.56	3.83	22.69		
Lake City	59	24		2,046	2,361		1.84	1.88	4.15	24.14		
Old Mission	61	32		2,042	2,427		1.27	1.51	4.81	17.74		
Pellston	57	29		1,915	2,242		1.30	1.47	4.77	17.84		
Northwest	61	24	-1	1,990	2,327	2,323	1.38	1.52	4.63	18.89	20.44	2.75
Alpena	63	34		2,036	2,347		1.66	1.83	4.04	25.37		
Houghton Lake	58	35		2,062	2,409		1.71	1.72	3.50	21.79		
Rogers City	61	37		1,991	2,315		1.29	1.42	3.41	25.78		
Northeast	63	29	-1	2,023	2,341	2,243	1.40	1.52	3.51	23.05	20.05	2.40
Fremont	63	31		2,364	2,635		2.00	2.03	4.22	21.63		
Hart	62	33		2,226	2,525		1.19	1.29	3.21	21.00		
Muskegon	63	40		2,581	2,698		2.26	2.31	4.43	20.89		
West Central	63	21	0	2,345	2,583	2,542	1.74	1.80	3.55	21.17	20.63	2.94
Alma	66	29		2,423	2,744		1.54	1.57	3.42	23.34		
Big Rapids	66	26		2,237	2,595		0.55	0.59	2.34	22.82		
Central	66	26	1	2,332	2,656	2,626	0.93	0.95	2.69	21.30	21.16	2.59
Bad Axe	61	23		2,275	2,642		0.67	0.72	2.64	19.94		
Pigeon	62	36		2,242	2,552		1.00	1.02	3.29	20.46		
Saginaw	66	37		2,500	2,834		0.89	0.93	2.35	19.20		
Standish	61	32		2,216	2,495		1.46	1.46	3.19	20.28		
East Central	95	-17	1	2,529	2,656	2,642	3.89	3.93	5.95	23.74	18.88	2.41
Fennville	67	37		2,449	2,722		2.38	2.53	6.42	25.78		
Grand Rapids	68	35		2,722	3,062		2.65	2.66	5.14	27.40		
Holland	69	33		2,823	3,091		2.68	2.72	7.38	39.22		
South Bend, IN	70	33		2,882	3,188		1.64	1.81	4.39	26.45		
Watervliet	69	34		2,652	2,919		1.91	2.01	5.34	24.01		
Southwest	71	25	1	2,666	2,940	2,892	1.96	2.06	5.17	25.39	22.04	2.99
Belding	66	36		2,382	2,706		2.29	2.30	4.92	23.81		
Coldwater	70	34		2,758	2,949		0.45	0.55	3.31	21.35		
Lansing	69	37		2,571	2,930		1.51	1.53	3.01	27.83		
South Central	70	26	2	2,519	2,860	2,837	1.48	1.53	3.79	24.48	21.14	2.41
Detroit	72	34		2,968	3,262		1.01	1.02	3.04	22.74		
Flint	66	37		2,531	2,968		1.15	1.17	2.55	25.65		
Romeo	69	34		2,541	2,819		1.25	1.26	2.80	22.22		
Tipton	69	29		2,638	2,953		1.28	1.30	5.09	24.06		
Toledo, OH	72	33		2,960	3,247		0.84	1.01	4.70	24.20		
Southeast	72	22	2	2,657	3,022	2,835	1.02	1.08	3.23	22.00	20.11	2.33

¹ Issued by the USDA, NASS, Michigan Field Office in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Commerce, Michigan State University's Cooperative Extension Service, Agricultural Meteorologist, Department of Geography, and Crop Advisory Team ALERTS.

² Growing degree days (GDD) is the sum of daily mean temperatures minus 50 per day, 86 maximum and 50 minimum. The GDD is accumulative from April 1.